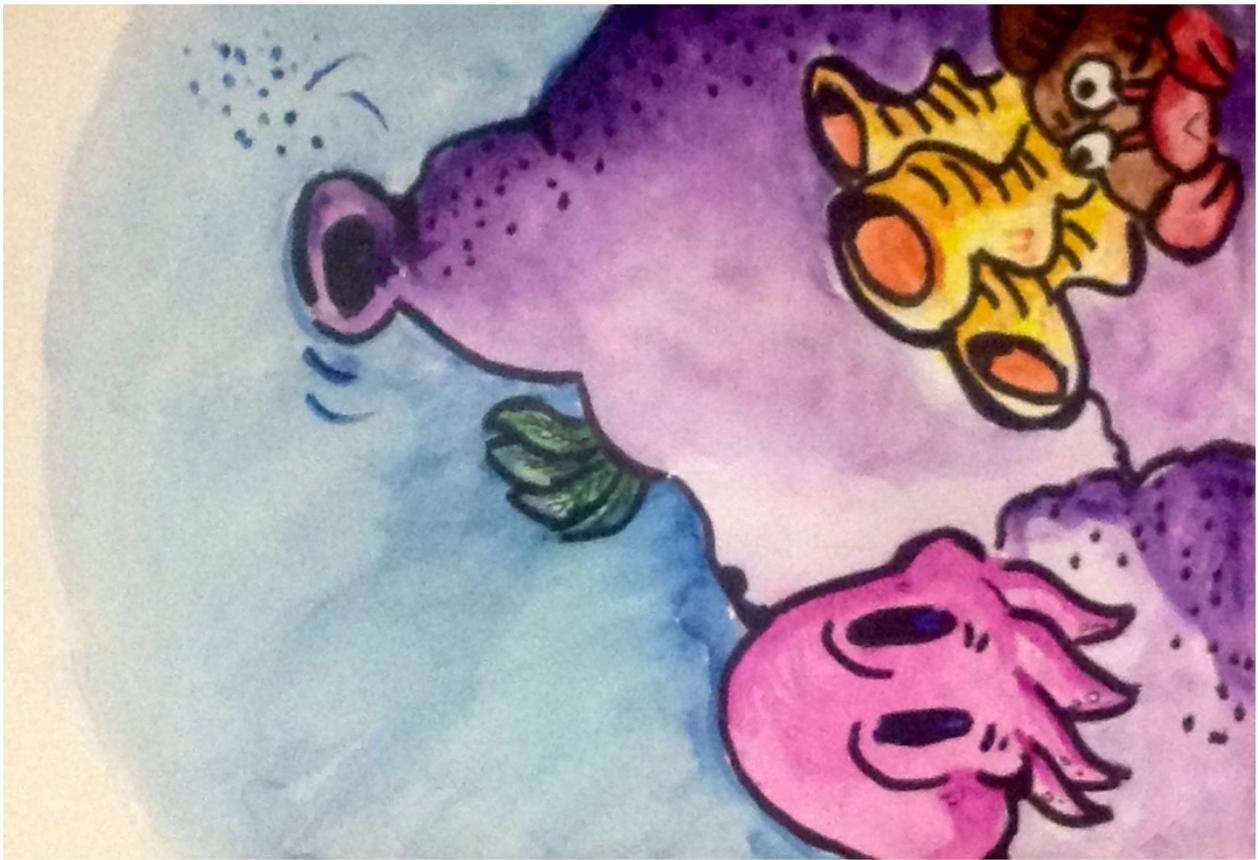


The Lazy Shark

By:
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There once resided a shark at the top cave, which loomed over the vibrant reef below. The fish constantly swam in fear, unsure when the beast would grow hungry. Each feeding frenzy always occurred during the most unpredictable of times, prior to a long... long pause. Only the feeble octopus could muster the courage to reason with the shark. "I think I might have a plan..." she mused.

So the octopus climbed and climbed up to the top of the rock until she reached the mouth of the cavern, only to stare towards... an asleep beast. "I have to stick to my plans," she thought. "But I wonder how much it would take to wake him up."

Before the octopus knew it, there was a pair of beady eyes staring straight towards her. "Well, excuse me," she spoke up. "I have business with you."





"What do you want?" A gruff voice sounded, "Has a meal come to me?"

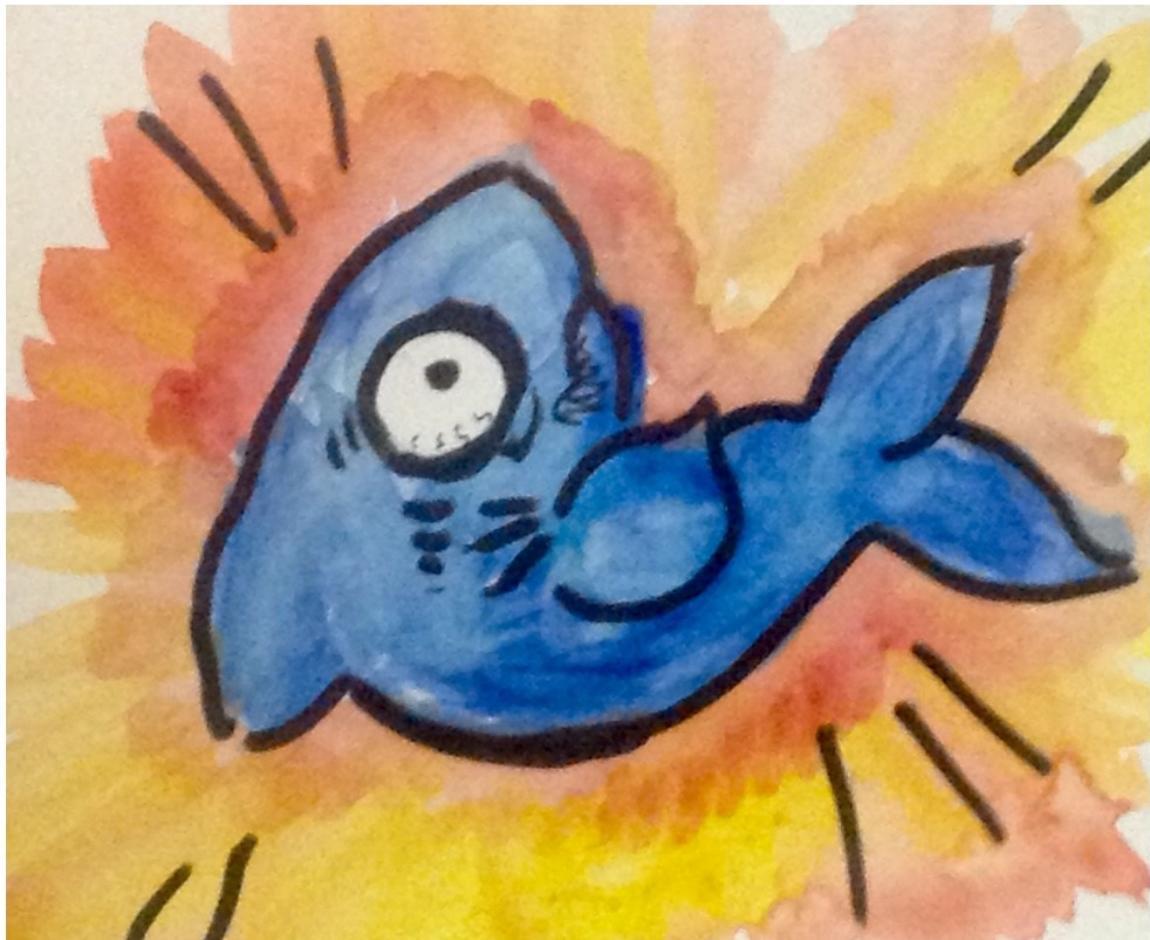
"All your meals are outside! Outside in the reef."

The octopus was already aware that the intimidating shark, according to his behavior, was incredibly lazy. If she tempted him with food shortly after a frenzy, would he actually go for it?

"I'm getting to that later," the shark replied with a grumpy huff, already thinking he had things taken care of. "Are you gonna leave, or should I open my mouth?"



The octopus managed to escape before being trapped behind the shark's jaws, moving quietly to give him a chance to fall back to sleep. As soon as she could, she gathered all the fish in the lively reef, before informing them of the shark-free one an hour's swim away. As swiftly as all the creatures could, they migrated far from the coral bed trapped beneath the looming cave.



Several lengthy hours later, the shark poked his head out of the cave, confident that some slothful time wouldn't hinder him from getting food. But as he searched and searched, the place was barren. The shark was shocked, unaware of the new reef. He could only go hungry, for his pride and laziness got the best of him.